(II) Village Industries

(i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

(ii) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).

(III) Coir

(i) Development of Production Infrastructure Scheme for coir production through supply of equipment and machinery at subsidised rates.

(ii) Research and Development Schemes.

(iii) Mahila Coir Yojana.

(c) and (d) Government has recently approved implementation of the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in 100 clusters of khadi, village and coir industries over five years beginning 2005-2006. The scheme envisages assistance for setting up of common facility centers (CFC), quality improvement, training and capacity building, development of new products, improved packaging, new design, market promotion, etc.

Tax benefits to Pharma companies

1205. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give tax benefits and incentives to pharmaceutical companies to produce second line drugs for AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what planning has been made for the second line of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) One of the main objectives of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002, is to ensure abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption (which also includes Anti AIDS Drugs).

As per Custom Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated 1-3-2002, as amended, certain AIDS drugs are exempted from custom duty as well as additional duty and some others are attracting concessional rate of Custom

Duty with nil additional duty. Further, as per Excise Notification No. 4/2006-C.E. dated 1-3-2006, certain AIDS drugs are exempted from excise Duty as well. This Department has recommended that some more Anti-AIDS medicaments (bulk drugs and formulations) should also be exempted from Custom & Central Excise Duty so that these medicines could be made available to the patients at a cheaper price.

Use of gas as feed stock by fertilizer companies

1206. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many fertilizer companies are getting gas as their feed stock;

(b) the details of companies that are getting gas as feed stock and its quantum and actual consumption, and

(c) whether the fertilizer companies would import gas for their captive consumption, if so, the names of the companies which import gas, the quantum of gas imported and the country from which it is being imported along with the rates thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) A total number of 12 fertilizer companies are receiving are receiving gas and utilizing gas as feedstock at 14 locations.

(b) The gas supply position to the fertilizer companies during 2005-06 is given in the table below.

(in MMSCMD)

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Actual average supply during 2005-06
1.	GSFC, Vadodara	1.591
2.	IFFCO, Kalol	1.103
3.	IFFCO, Aonla (I & II)	2.998
4.	RCF, Trombay	1.069
5.	RCF, Thal	2.068